

pay for BP's oil spill. He replied, "I think BP and the Federal Government should take full responsibility for what's happening here." His words clearly misstated the law. BP is solely responsible, and his staff went into damage control overdrive afterwards to clean up his mess.

But this gaffe really confirms what every American knows in their heart of hearts, that Washington Republicans for the last 40 years have been lockstep allies of the oil companies' push to shift the risk of oil production onto the taxpayer and keep the benefit to themselves. Americans listening today should know that no matter what the Republican leader says, the Democratic majority understands that BP is solely responsible for the cleanup; that the taxpayer will be repaid for its costs; and that BP will compensate small businesses and working families for the damage done to their lives.

No more free rides courtesy of the American taxpayer.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

#### BENEFITS OF THE HEALTH CARE ACT

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, after a year and a little bit more of debating health care in this country, with all the numbers and the rhetoric, sometimes we lose sight of the actual human face of what we accomplish for the American people.

I have the great honor today of being joined by two bright and beautiful young women: Camille Davis and Madeline Davis of Louisville, Kentucky, 7 and 9 years old. They both had tethered cord syndrome that was diagnosed and treated successfully at Children's Hospital in my hometown. They are doing great, and they will grow up to be whatever they want to be. As a matter of fact, I'm glad that they're not 25 because probably one of them would take my seat very shortly.

But the important thing is now, because of the health care bill that we passed, they can be anything they want to be. They can go to grad school. They can do an internship. They can stay on their parent's policy until they're 26. They have total freedom without regard to being denied coverage because of their medical history. This is one of the great benefits of the health care act that we achieved for the American people, and there are millions more like Madeline and Camille who will benefit for the rest of their lives.

I am so proud of what we accomplished for Madeline and Camille Davis and for millions of American young people.

#### SLOAN HILLS WITHDRAWAL ACT

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, today the Senate will hold a subcommittee hearing on the Sloan Hills Withdrawal Act introduced by Majority Leader REID. I am a cosponsor and strong supporter of the House companion to this legislation.

This bill would withdraw a 640-acre site near the Sun City Anthem community in Henderson from being made available for mining purposes. The proposed mining operation would cause air quality deterioration, a serious concern, especially for seniors and children, who are vulnerable to respiratory diseases. The proposal is also water-intensive and will increase traffic in the area.

Residents of nearby communities, which are in District Three, would be most directly impacted by this project. That is why I attended a public meeting in April of last year with more than 400 concerned residents of the area. I heard loud and clear that the proposed mine was unacceptable.

The Sloan Hills Withdrawal Act would ensure that an aggregate mine is not developed on this site and will protect the health and well-being of my constituents in Henderson. So I urge its passage.

#### SCOTT URBAN, 2010 OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD FOR TEACHER ACHIEVEMENT

(Mr. WALZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Scott Urban, a teacher from Mankato West High School in Mankato, Minnesota. Scott was this year's recipient of the Minnesota WEM Foundation's Outstanding Educator Award. This award recognizes exemplary teachers who support, inspire, and assist students to achieve their full potential. They are nominated by students, parents, colleagues, and community leaders, the people that matter most.

As a teacher on leave myself from Mankato West High School, I had the honor of teaching in the classroom next to Scott. I have seen his passion and outstanding leadership inspire students to achieve far more than they ever dream. He encourages his students to learn the material, not simply for a test but to test their knowledge and their limits.

Scott's success with students is unparalleled. Over the past 11 years at Mankato West, the students in his rigorous advanced placement government and politics class have maintained an 80 percent pass rate on the national exam, well above all averages. Last year, 85 students took the exam with a

pass rate of 94 percent, and 54 percent achieved five out of five. Students in Scott's advanced placement government class come away with not only superior knowledge of our political system but a deep love for our democracy.

For 27 years, he has challenged and inspired, and I hope it's another 27.

Congratulations, Scott.

#### WE MUST BREAK OUR ADDICTION TO FOSSIL FUEL

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. The horrific crisis and tragedy in the gulf must be a wake-up call to America that we must break our addiction to fossil fuel and move with all deliberate haste to a renewable energy future or America simply will have no future.

Energy independence is an economic necessity. We can create an entire economy based on green jobs. It's not only an environmental necessity. Look at the crisis that we have in the gulf with the loss of life and the destruction of an ecosystem that will take a lifetime to fix.

It's a national security imperative. We have to break from our reliance on the Saudis and the Venezuelans, the BPs of the world, and harness the sun, wind, geothermal, biomass. The State of Nevada can become the epicenter of renewable energy. We just need the will to do it.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in a renewable energy future for this great country.

#### WALL STREET REFORM

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, Wall Street reform is critical to creating jobs and growing our economy. As we rebuild America, we must ensure that Wall Street won't gamble again with our futures.

I support the Restoring American Financial Stability Act because it includes commonsense reforms to hold Wall Street and the big banks accountable. This bill will end bailouts by ensuring taxpayers are never again on the hook for Wall Street's risky decisions and will rein in big banks and their big bonuses. It protects families' retirement funds, college savings, homes and businesses' financial futures from unnecessary risk by lenders.

It also safeguards the American people from predatory lending abuses, which resulted in millions of foreclosures over the past few years.

The American people deserve and want these reforms. Let's give Americans what they deserve: fairness in the financial system.